

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

INFO USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, IC

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS: PRESS REPORT ON

ICELANDIC PROPOSALS

REFERENCE: REYKJAVIK 447

1. THE FOLLOWING STORY APPEARED IN THE WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS MARCH 24: QUOTE ICELAND GI PLAN IS BARED. REYKJAVIK, ICELAND (AP)-COMMUNIST SOURCES REVEALED YESTERDAY WHAT THEY SAID WAS ICELAND'S PLAN FOR GETTING AMERICAN TROOPS OUT OF HERE BY MID-1976. PARA. THE GOVERNMENT HAS REFUSED TO DISCUSS ICELAND'S DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AIMED AT VACATING THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION BASE AT KEFLAVIK. FOREIGN MINISTER EINAR AGUSTSSON SAYS THE DOCUMENT IS CONFIDENTIAL. PARA. BUT MAGNUST KJARTANSSON, ONE OF TWO COMMUNIST MINISTERS IN THE LEFTIST COALITION GOVERNMENT OF OLAFUR JOHANNESSEN, DISCLOSED THE MAIN POINTS OF THE PLAN IN A TELEVISION INTER-

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VIEW. THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIST PARTY JOURNAL ALSO PUBLISHED

THE PROPOSALS. PARA. ACCORDING TO KJARTANSSON, THE 3,200-STRONG AMERICAN DEFENSE FORCE WOULD BE WITHDRAWN IN FOUR STAGES--THE FIRST 800 THIS YEAR, THE NEXT 800 BY MID-1975, ANOTHER 800 BY THE END OF 1975 AND THE REMAINDER BY MID-1976. PARA. HE LISTED THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS AND OBLIGATIONS IN THE DRAFT PROPOSALS: MILITARY AIRCRAFT OF NATO COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE LANDING RIGHTS AT KEFLAVIK WHEN NECESSARY IN THE VIEW OF THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT. NO

PERMANENT BASE FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT WOULD BE IN ICELAND. PARA. BECAUSE OF THESE LANDING RIGHTS, NATO WOULD BE ALLOWED TO STATION 100-200 TECHNICIANS AND OTHER NON-MILITARY PERSONNEL TO SERVICE THE AIRCRAFT. PARA. AFTER THE DEFENSE FORCE HAD GONE, ICELANDERS WILL TAKE OVER ALL GUARD AND POLICE FUNCTIONS AT KEFLAVIK. PARA. ICELANDERS WOULD TAKE OVER ALL FUNCTIONS RUN BY AMERICANS AT RADAR STATIONS ON THE SOUTHWEST AND SOUTHEAST COASTS. PARA. AMERICAN MILITARY TELEVISION AT KEFLAVIK SHOULD NOT BE BEAMED TO POINTS OUTSIDE THE BASE AND CLOSED COMPLETELY BY MID-1975. PARA. KJARTANSSON SAID FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON IS EXPECTED TO FLY TO WASHINGTON IN APRIL TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS AND, IF AN AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED, THE ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT WOULD INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION IN THE PARLIAMENT BEFORE ITS SUMMER RECESS. END QUOTE.

2. OUR PRESS GUIDANCE, TO BE USED ON IF-ASKED BASIS, IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER (OLAFUR JOHANNESSEN) AND FOREIGN MINISTER (EINAR AGUSTSSON) CALLED IN OUR AMBASSADOR (FREDERICK IRVING) ON MARCH 22 AND PRESENTED TO HIM ORALLY THE GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ICELANDIC PROPOSAL ON THE REVISION OF THE 1951 DEFENSE AGREEMENT WHICH THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL PRESENT TO THE UNITED STATES AT THE NEXT NEGOTIATING SESSION IN WASHINGTON. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE DATES OF THIS SESSION WILL BE DECIDED ON IN THE NEAR FUTURE. PARA. THERE SHOULD BE NO COMMENT ON ANY SUBSTANTIVE ASPECT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. PARA. IF ASKED WHO THE US NEGOTIATOR IS, THE QUESTION SHOULD BE TAKEN FOR SUBSEQUENT REPLY. END QUOTE.

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3. IF QUESTIONED SPECIFICALLY RE STAR-NEWS STORY, WE INTEND TO ANSWER THAT NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL IN PROGRESS AND THAT UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER. RUSH

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